

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: August 7, 2014

Agenda Item: Temporary construction closure of Pine Grove Pond FAS

Division: Fisheries

Action Needed: Final Action

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background

Pine Grove Pond is a popular Fishing Access Site in Region 1. The gravel road and parking lot receives high use and the road suffers erosion during the snow melt period. Currently, a paved trail wraps around half of the pond. The Flathead Valley community donated resources to put a crushed asphalt surface on the road, parking area and dirt trail around half of the pond. LHC, Inc. donated four side-dumper trucks to transport the 1,000 yards of asphalt millings donated by the City of Kalispell. Flathead Electric Coop donated \$9,000 from their Roundup For Safety Program to cover the fuel costs so the Flathead Valley Community College heavy equipment class can assist in the transport of materials and lay down the asphalt surface. Walleyes Unlimited administers the Flathead Electric Coop grant. Robin Street, the donor of the site to FWP, helped coordinate the project. FVCC will complete the project in one to two weeks in August as temperatures rise to allow the millings to be applied. The site will need to be closed during this period to allow heavy equipment to do the work without conflicting with public use or creating public safety concerns.

Public Involvement Process & Results

FWP did a press release when the materials were transported to the site.

Alternatives and Analysis

Not pave the site. Pros: a gravel road can be regularly graded to smooth the surface. Cons: the road will continue to erode with snow melt and rain events, the road and parking lot will continue to be dusty, and access will be difficult for some users around the half of the pond without a level paved surface.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP recommends temporarily closing the site for up to two weeks to allow construction and avoid public safety concerns as heavy equipment moves and lays the asphalt material.

Proposed Motion

I move to temporarily close the Pine Grove Pond FAS during the paving project.